

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration



July 22, 2009

**LETTER TO HOTEL LICENSEES ON BRINGING ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES TO HOTEL GUEST ROOMS**

Dear Hotel Licensee:

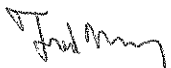
This letter is intended to clarify whether a guest of a licensed Class "CH" hotel who legally obtains an alcoholic beverage from the hotel's restaurant or bar area may bring that beverage to his or her hotel room. ABRA has received several inquiries from licensed hotels on this question and is providing you this letter to bring clarity to this issue.

The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration's (ABRA's) position is that a licensed Class "CH" hotel may allow a guest who legally obtains an alcoholic beverage from the hotel's bar or restaurant to take the alcoholic beverage to his or her hotel room. ABRA notes that hotel licensees are free to adopt their own policies and procedures for how they operate as to this matter, for instance, there is no legal impediment to a hotel policy against this practice.

By this letter, ABRA is only advising you that there are no impediments in the ABC laws and regulations that prevent your hotel from allowing a guest to bring a drink from the hotel's bar or restaurant to the guest's hotel room, provided that the guest remains inside of the hotel during the transportation thereof. Please note that the consumption of an alcoholic beverage outside the hotel in an area without a summer garden or sidewalk café endorsement is not permitted and would constitute an ABC violation. As such, your hotel should consider putting policies and procedures in place to ensure that guest of the hotel do not leave the hotel building with alcoholic beverages.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ABRA's Office of the General Counsel at (202) 442-4423.

Sincerely,



Fred Moosally

Director

Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration